

what is best for their children and what was unavailable to them in some far-off country. These are very real people who have no legal avenues that allow them to live and work here legally, who have no options other than to hide or leave, who have been cut off from fully integrating into our society as citizens because Congress has been fighting over immigration reform. These are the people that Mr. Bannon, Mr. Sessions, and Mr. KING have been working together for years to get out of what they call their country so that our erratic new President can point to deportations and say that he is making America great again.

What is clear from the citizenship surge and all those who want to help is that America is not only great, not only kind, not only dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal, but there are Americans and those who want to be Americans willing to stand up and resist when leaders take us in the wrong direction.

Mr. Speaker, you will see millions of Americans and aspiring Americans marching together in American cities across our great Nation on May 1, and when you do, you will see this bond and this shared humanity this coming May 1.

CUBA AND VENEZUELA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss two foreign policy areas that are important to our Nation, our region, and to my constituency in south Florida. Cuba and Venezuela are two countries in our hemisphere that suffer under dictatorships and are avowed enemies of the United States.

In my native homeland of Cuba, we have seen human rights violations on the rise ever since the U.S. concessions to the Castro regime in December 2014. One example is the case of Dr. Eduardo Cardet of Holguin, Cuba, pictured here. He is a medical doctor and the leader of the Christian Liberation Movement who was savagely beaten in front of his wife and two children and has been imprisoned since November 2016. Just days ago he was sentenced to 3 years in prison.

Dr. Cardet is condemned and sentenced because he is the voice for change and a respected human rights leader. The truth is that Eduardo Cardet has been imprisoned because he is willing—and has been doing it—to tell anyone who would listen that the Cuban people do not approve of the Castro regime. For not supporting this vile Castro dictatorship and for speaking out against such cruelty and abuses, he was sentenced to 3 years.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot stand idly by as more and more prodemocracy leaders are being beaten and arrested on the island. The President and his new administration have committed to re-

versing some of the damage inflicted by the previous administration on the cause of freedom and democracy in Cuba. Our policy in Cuba should send a strong message throughout the hemisphere that the United States will no longer remain silent on these atrocities.

It is well known that Cuba has exposed, has exported its barbaric tactics to other countries in the hemisphere, namely, Venezuela. The Venezuelan people believe that there is no justice in their land. They believe that there is no respect for law in their country, and they are right.

And what about their economy?

Well, according to the International Monetary Fund, the inflation in Venezuela last year was around 800 percent—800 percent—and the inflation projection for this year is 1,600 percent. This is not sustainable, Mr. Speaker, especially when press reports are so visual when they show that Venezuelan people are scavenging for food. They don't have any money, and they are actually leaving their country in order to find food.

Venezuela has only a little over \$10 billion worth of foreign reserves, yet it owes \$7 billion in outstanding debt payments. This tells us, Mr. Speaker, that we have, sadly, not yet hit rock bottom in Venezuela and that the situation will get worse, which is why it is so important that we begin the process to bring democratic reforms to the country now in order to prevent a larger crisis that is looming in the future.

One way to achieve this, Mr. Speaker, is to impose sanctions on human rights violators. Mr. Speaker, more targeted sanctions against those individuals who are responsible for the famine and the human rights violations that are ongoing in Venezuela are desperately needed.

Let's examine some of the individuals who I believe should be on the sanctions list. First off we have Maikel Moreno. This individual, months ago, used Venezuela's kangaroo courts and ratified the unjust sentence against political prisoner Leopoldo Lopez.

How was he rewarded by the Maduro regime?

He was appointed to be the president of the Supreme Justice Tribunal. Just appalling.

Next up is Marco Torres. Marco Torres is the Venezuelan Minister of Food. Let's examine his awful track record. The food shortages in Venezuela are rampant, and it is difficult for the people to feed themselves or their families. To make matters worse, Mr. Speaker, press reports indicate that Venezuelans are eating from trash in the street just to survive. The Venezuelan people deserve better.

Next we have Jose Vilorio Sosa, this gentleman right here. He is the director of the military prison of Ramo Verde. This decrepit character is responsible for the inhumane treatment and abusive tactics against human rights activist Leopoldo Lopez.

Lastly, Susana Barreiros Rodriguez. In 2015, she was the judge of the 28th Trial Circuit Court of Caracas who was the one who originally unjustly sentenced Leopoldo Lopez to jail.

We must provide a voice for those whose rights continue to be trampled, and take swift and decisive actions such as imposing sanctions on all of these regime officials and many more who facilitate those abuses.

When it comes to the tyranny in Cuba and in Venezuela, Mr. Speaker, we must have a clear vision and a clear understanding of the nature of these rogue regimes that do not respect the rule of law, do not respect freedom of expression, and do not respect any kind of human dignity.

HEALTHCARE TROJAN HORSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, when Queen Helen of Sparta was abducted by the Trojan prince Paris, Helen's jilted husband convinced his brother, a Greek king, to lead an expedition to retrieve her. He was accompanied by a fleet of more than a thousand ships. They crossed the sea to Troy and demanded Helen's return.

The siege, punctuated by all sorts of battles and skirmishes, lasted more than 10 years until one day when Odysseus had a bright idea. He said: Hey, guys, let's build a really massive wooden horse. Let's pretend like we have given up and sailed our fleet behind some island, but really about 30 of us will hide inside the horse. We will have someone tell the Trojans that it is some kind of gift to Athena, the goddess of war, and they will haul it into their city. When they are asleep, we will all sneak out, open the gates for everybody else, and totally kill everybody in the city.

And that is the legend of the Trojan horse.

So what is the moral of that story and why am I reciting Greek lore on the floor of Congress today?

Well, because history has a way of repeating itself. Today we have our own Trojan horse, a so-called GOP healthcare bill, TrumpCare, that professes to be about health care but, in reality, is a Trojan horse to give tax breaks to the wealthiest in the country.

Let's take a serious look at it. We are told that it is the replacement to the Affordable Care Act, a bill that has offered insurance to over 20 million people in this country. Now that replacement is supposed to fix the problems of the Affordable Care Act and ensure health care for everyone, as promised by President Trump.

But the covert part of TrumpCare was that he got busted last week when the Congressional Budget Office, our nonpartisan agency that evaluates bills, said that, in reality, the bill does little to improve health care. In fact, it